

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3313

April 28, 2022

Chairwoman Lucille Roybal-Allard
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
2006 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Chuck Fleischmann
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
2006 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

As you begin work on the Homeland Security appropriations bill for fiscal year 2023, I respectfully urge the subcommittee to include language from the fiscal year 2020 bill that ensures border wall funds will go to effective designs that are already deployed on the border and prioritize agent safety. Specifically, the section 209(b) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2020 (Pub. L. 116-93, Division D) limits funding to operationally effective designs deployed as of May 5, 2017, or operationally effective adaptations of such designs that help mitigate community or environmental impacts. Furthermore, the bill directs U.S. Customs and Border Protection to focus on construction activities in high priority locations as identified in the Border Security Improvement Plan.

Specifically, I request the following bill language be included with any border wall funds:

- (b) The amount designated in subsection (a)(1) shall only be available for barrier systems that—
 - (1) use—
 - (A) operationally effective designs deployed as of the date of enactment of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31), such as currently deployed steel bollard designs, that prioritize agent safety; or
 - (B) operationally effective adaptations of such designs that help mitigate community or environmental impacts of barrier system construction, including adaptations based on consultation with jurisdictions within which barrier system will be constructed; and
 - (2) are constructed in the highest priority locations as identified in the Border Security Improvement Plan.

Unfortunately, this language was left out of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2021 and 2022. Without this limiting language, funds Congress intends for border wall construction can be diverted to non-border wall projects. An effective border wall is key to securing our southern border and controlling the influx of illegal immigration. Congress has recognized this by appropriating nearly \$6 billion for border wall construction since 2017. It is crucial that any additional border wall funds be spent responsibly.

In conjunction with my separate request, I hope you will provide robust funding for border wall construction and include this limiting language to ensure border wall funds are not misused or redirected. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Budd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names clearly distinguishable.

Ted Budd
Member of Congress